The United States Constitution

Study Guide

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION and the CONSTITUTION:

• Articles of Confederation was America’s first constitution signed in 1777.

• List two reasons why the Articles of Confederation was unsuccessful:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• What was the purpose of the Constitutional Convention?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the president of the Constitutional Convention.

• Delegates agreed that there should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ branches of government, which are the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ branches.

• What did the Virginia Plan call for? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• What did the New Jersey Plan call for? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• What did the small states & large states agree about in the Great Compromise?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DEBATING THE CONSTITUTION

• Federalism is the division of power between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ government & the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

• 3/5 Compromise said that slaves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• Federalists were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution and

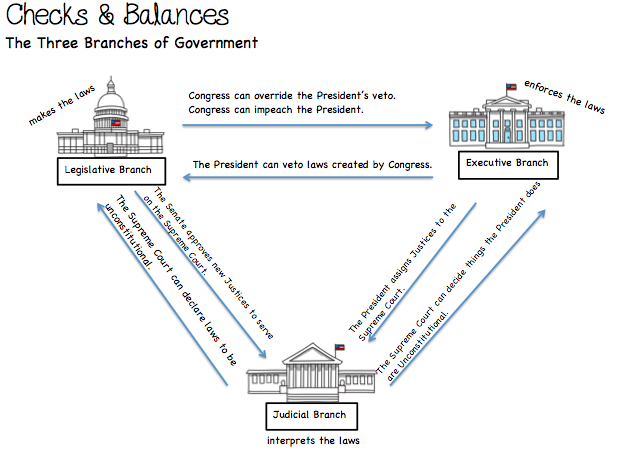
Anti-Federalists were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution.

• According to the Anti-Federalists, the Constitution was missing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which includes the first 10 Amendments.

GOVERNMENT’S POWERS & PEOPLE’S RIGHTS:

Use the illustration below to complete the chart!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Legislative: | Executive: | Judicial: |
| Who is in branch: |  |  |  |
| Main Job: |  |  |  |
| 2 Specific Powers |  |  |  |



The Bill of Rights...in Everyday Language

The Bill of Rights contains the first 10 Amendments (changes) to the Constitution. These 10 Amendments protect our rights as Americans.

*Amendment 1:* This is also called the “First Amendment”. Because of this Amendment, we have the right to practice any religion we choose. We have the right to say what we would like (in most cases). We have the freedom to print our opinions in newspapers, books, and magazines. Citizens are allowed to sign petitions and present them to the government. Americans are allowed to join together peacefully in groups of any size.

*Amendment 2:* We have the right to own guns. Amendment 3: Americans cannot be forced to let soldiers live in their homes.

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*Amendment 4:* This Amendment protects our privacy. The police cannot search your body or property without a warrant from a judge.

*Amendment 5:* We have the right to a fair, legal trial if we are accused of a crime. You don’t have to say things in court that show you are guilty of a crime.

*Amendment 6:* We have the right to a speedy and public trial. You should not have to wait many years for your trial to start.

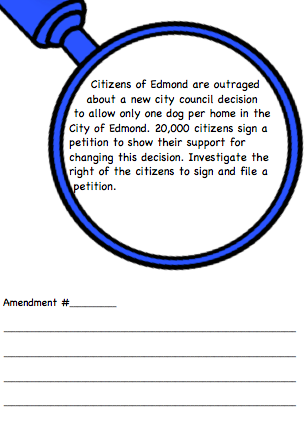
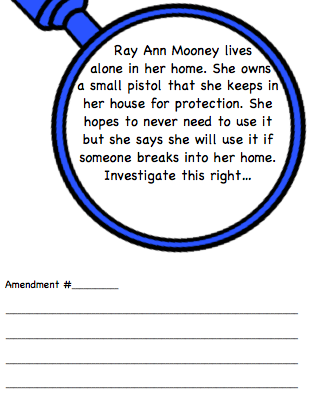
*Amendment 7:* You have the right to a jury trial in private cases, like when you are suing someone. The amount of damage must be more than $20.

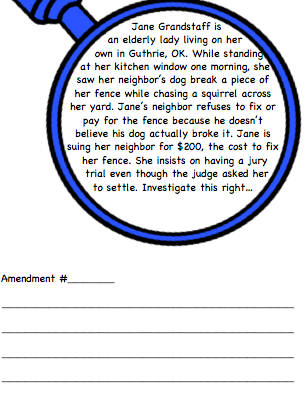
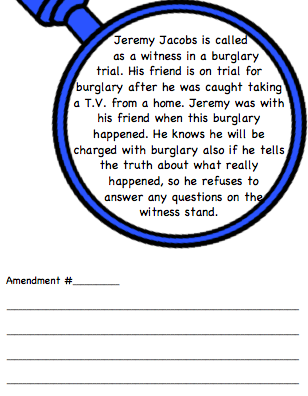
*Amendment 8:* In this Amendment, cruel and unusual punishment is outlawed. Also, if you are charged with a crime, the judge cannot set an unreasonable bail amount.

*Amendment 9:* This Amendment tells us that Americans have rights that are not listed in the Constitution. Amendment 10: Power that was not given to the U.S. Government by the Constitution belongs to the states or to the people.

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* You DO NOT have to memorize the Bill of Rights. You will have to understand how the Bill of Rights Relates to real life situations.
* On the following page read each scenario, look at the Bill of Rights to find the amendment to which each scenario is associated, then write a short paragraph explaining why it related to that Amendment. Be specific!

Short Answer: One of the following short essay questions will be on the test. Your response to this question will help your teacher understand if you Exceed Proficiency for our Government Standard.

* In the Declaration of Independence it is written: **“all men are created equal.”** How do you think the U.S. Constitution fulfills this promise? Examples: equal rights to jobs, voting
* What would America look like if there were **NO Constitution**? Explain using **three examples of rights** that Americans would lose. Examples: Rights we might lose...freedom of religion, speech, right to bear arms, etc.